

CHAPTER 15
(Revised 01-21-2020)
REDISTRICTING PROCEDURE

15.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this Chapter is to regulate Redistricting Procedure in Brown County. Brown County citizens believe in the idea of free and fair elections, and that freedom from undue influence through the act known as “gerrymandering” is essential to those ends. The County Board believes the creation of political districts is best handled without undue partisan or personal influence, and that currently elected Supervisors, officials, and/or political parties should be prevented from unduly influencing this process to the greatest extent possible.

15.02 CITIZENS DRAFTING AD HOC COMMITTEE. A Citizens Drafting Ad Hoc Committee shall be created. The County Board Chair shall select and appoint 7 members of the public to sit on the Citizens Drafting Ad Hoc Committee, subject to confirmation by the County Board. Members of the Citizens Drafting Ad Hoc Committee must not be dues paying members of a political party nor hold elected office at the time of appointment or during their tenure as a member of the Citizens Drafting Ad Hoc Committee.

15.03 MAPPING CRITERIA. The following mapping criteria, as applicable, should be considered by the Committee while drafting new district maps: Equal Population; Contiguity; Compactness; Municipal Boundaries; Natural Boundaries (e.g., the Fox River); the desire to not increase or decrease the current number of Supervisors by more than two; Communities of Interest, which may include Rural vs. Urban interests; and Racial and Ethnic groups (defined as any racial, ethnic, cultural, or language minority group which is underrepresented in local elected office).

15.04 PROHIBITION IN MAPPING CONSIDERATIONS. The Committee may not give any consideration as to whether any map favors or disfavors any incumbent or potential candidate. Locations of current Supervisor residences should not be taken into consideration when drafting new maps.

15.05 DRAFTING PROCEDURE. Upon the release of the necessary census data, the Director of Planning shall select two Planning staff members to create a minimum of two maps each, within 30 days. The Director of Planning shall send the maps to the Citizens Drafting Ad Hoc Committee. The Citizens Drafting Ad Hoc Committee shall submit all maps to the County Board Chair, and shall recommend one of them for passage.

15.06 VOTING PROCEDURE. Upon receipt of the maps, the County Board Chair shall place the maps as an agenda item for action on or before the next scheduled County Board meeting. If none of the maps presented pass, then the County Board may draft their own map.

15.07 ELECTED OFFICIALS BEHAVIOR. Elected officials are forbidden from consulting with or discussing with the Citizens Drafting Committee any aspect of redistricting between the time of appointment and the time the Citizens Drafting Committee formally chooses a map to recommend. A non-exhaustive list of prohibited topics of communication includes topics such as specific maps, recommendations, objectives, or goals. It is intended that this moratorium of communication be interpreted as broadly as possible. Elected officials should refrain from such behavior in both private and public discourse. Violation of this moratorium on discussion may result in referral to the Ethics Committee.